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New Variety of 1837 Half Eagle Discovered

By DAVID M. BULLOWA

AN EXAMINATION of the two illustrations indicates that two entirely different obverse and reverse dies were used in the striking of the 1837 issue of half eagles. These may be readily differentiated by the size of the date upon the obverse, and upon the reverse by the presence or absence of a berry upon the wreath. In addition the period following 5 D is distant from the D on the small date reverse. An examination of numer-

Large Date Variety

Small Date Variety

ous catalogs fails to indicate any recognition of these varieties, and the large date variety with the berry is considered to be the scarcer of the two.

It seems rather extraordinary in view of the time which has been devoted upon our large cents, half cents, half dimes, half dollars, and dollars, that no one has ever made an appropriate study of our gold coinage by die varieties.

There is ample indication from the discovery of this variation that the American numismatic gold field holds open rich rewards for those desiring to bring adequate study and experience to the subject. It also indicates the fact that the catalogs now in current use are, in many fields, more cursory than might be expected.

What the Adoption of the Dollar As a Monetary Standard Eliminated

By ERIC P. NEWMAN

"The American Negotiator, or the Various Currencies of the British Colonies in America" was first published in London in 1761, and contains many conversion tables as a help to those who had to deal in the constantly fluctuating currencies of the American colonies. After the American Revolution it was still useful in connection with transactions in the money of account of the independent American States. My copy of third edition (1765) of the book was "Bought in Philadelphia, 16th June 1783 7/6." It contains on the rear pages the following text written in longhand presumably by the purchaser. Even though all notes of the Continental Congress and most notes of the Independent States were virtually worthless in 1783 the use of pounds, shillings and pence as money of account continued until the adoption of the Constitution.

"General tables for reducing the Currencies of the different United States each unto all the other & unto English money & unto the different Currencies of the said States—

Value of a Spanish Dollar:

In Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware & Maryland 7/6
In New York & North Carolina 8/
In Virginia, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Hampshire 6/
In South Carolina & Georgia 4/8

To reduce Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland currency—

To Virginia, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Hampshire currency. Rule: Deduct one-fith from the Pennsylvania etc. sum and the remainder will be Virginia currency.

To New York and North Carolina currency. Rule: Add one-fifteenth to the Pennsylvania etc. sum.

To South Carolina and Georgia currency. Rule: Multiply the Pennsylvania etc sum by 28, and divide the product by 45.

To Sterling money. Rule: Multiply the Pennsylvania etc. sum by 3, and divide the product by 5.

To reduce New York and North Carolina currency—

To Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland currency. Rule: Deduct one-sixteenth from the New York and North Carolina sum.

To Virginia, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Hampshire currency. Rule: Deduct one-fourth from the New York etc. sum.

To South Carolina and Georgia currency. Rule: Multiply the New York etc. sum by 7, and divide the product by 12.

To Sterling money. Rule: Multiply the New York etc. sum by 9, and divide the product by 16.

To reduce New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Virginia currencies—

To New York and North Carolina currencies. Rule: Add one-third to the New Hampshire etc. sum.

To Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland currencies. Rule: Add one-fourth to the New Hampshire etc. sum.

To South Carolina and Georgia currency. Rule: Multiply the New Hampshire sum by 7, and divide the product by 9: the quotient will be South Carolina and Georgia currency.

To Sterling money. Rule: From the New Hampshire etc. sum deduct one-fourth.

To reduce South Carolina and Georgia currency—

To Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland currency. Rule: Multiply the South Carolina etc. sum by 45 and divide the product by 28.

To New York and North Carolina currency. Rule: Multiply the South Carolina etc. sum by 12 and divide the product by 7.

To Virginia, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Hampshire currency. Rule: Multiply the South Carolina etc. sum by 9 and divide the product by 7.

To reduce Sterling money—

To Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland currency. Rule: Multiply the sterling money by 5, and divide the product by 3.

To New York and North Carolina currency. Rule: Multiply the sterling money by 16 and divide the product by 9.

To Virginia, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Rule: To the sterling money add one-third.

To reduce English money to Irish. Rule: To the English money add one-twelfth, the sum is Irish.

To reduce Irish money to English. Rule: From the Irish money deduct one-thirteenth, the remainder is English.

A Columbia City, Indiana merchant, believing the new $20.00 bills showing the new White House balcony were bogus, telephoned Scott Gates, a banker there, this week when he received one. The banker in turn checked with a Fort Wayne, Indiana bank official, who said the balcony does appear on the bills. But he warned: "Note carefully the man leaning out the upstairs window. If it's Tom Dewey, the bill is a counterfeit." —Wm. Brimelow

Dried fish was established as the standard of value and as money to pay salaries, under an official regulation of Newfoundland August 18, 1825. In Iceland, a pair of leather shoes was valued officially at four dried fish, a cask of wine at 100 dried fish.